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THE VOICE

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COLIN'S FATHER CLEARED

Mr James Roach was cleared last Thursday at Highbury Magistrates Court from what looked like a trumped-up charge arising out of the demonstrations demanding a public enquiry into his son's death.

According to prosecution witnesses, at about 4.00 p.m. on Saturday March 12, police waiting in vans were sent suddenly into the demonstration, making arrests and bringing it to a halt in Kingsmead High Street, Stoke Newington.

P.C. Garwood and P.C. Thomas described how they dragged Cirus Noor, wearing a balaclava with a slit for the eyes and combat jacket, off the white transit van leading the march.

According to the police, as they were carrying Noor to the police van, Mr Roach kept holding on to P.C. Garwoods arm, telling him not to arrest Cirus. As a result, P.C. Garwood also arrested Roach.

Photographs

This story, however, and the whole police case fell in ruins when two sets of photographs of Mr Roach's arrest were produced in court. In the pictures, Mr Roach is shown surrounded by police, but neither Cirus Noor, P.C. Garwood nor P.C. Thomas are anywhere to be seen.

The defence produced two other witnesses - one of them Pauline Roach who was with her father on the march and whose story was supported by the photographs.

When Mr Roach gave his evidence he told how he was grabbed from behind, hit in the face and kneed in the body. He was subjected to a long and tricky cross-examination, but maintained his story while the defence produced a police surgeons report showing that Roach had arrived at the police station with a bloody nose.

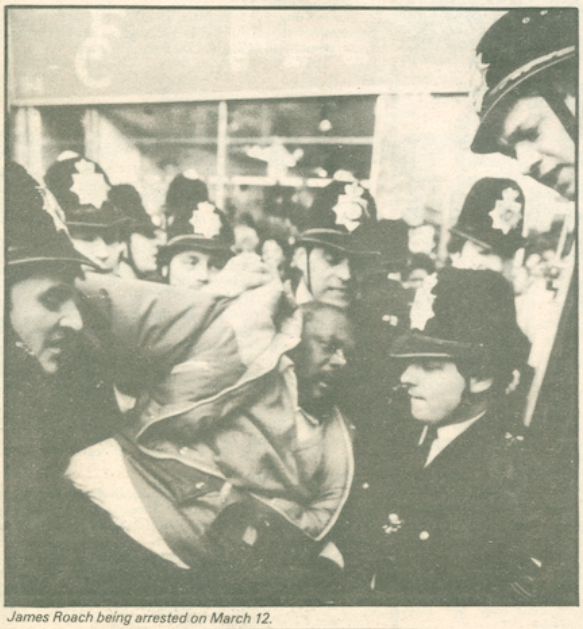
Earlier on, the court heard when the story could have been invented. As normally happens, the police witnesses said, they made up their notebooks together soon after the incident. Mrs Gareth Pierce, who was defending Mr Roach read out the Metropolitan Police Regulations which forbids officers to collaborate when making notes. P.C. Garwood admitted knowing he was breaking the rules.

"For the last few years," Mrs Pierce said, "courts have allowed this sort of thing to happen."

A lay bench heard the case - it had been transferred from Magistrate Johnston because he had already heard some of the evidence in another case. On May 20, a complaint was submitted about Johnston for his judgement in other Colin Roach cases.

Dismissed

The case was dismissed, but Mrs Pierce's request for costs because the case had been 'improperly brought' was also dismissed. A number of demonstrators still face charges arising from the demonstrations.



James Roach being arrested on March 12.

HOW'S THAT!

Not bad for a squaw - hoping for an Indian summer no doubt

Psychopath jailed

GARFIELD Williams was committed to Broadmoor Hospital for life last week after being found guilty of manslaughter when he threw a four-year-old boy off the fifth floor of a block of flats.

24-year-old Williams described at the Old Bailey as a 'dangerous psychopath' threw the 4-year-old white boy, Wayne Caroll, off the balcony after he became angry. The incident happened last October.

Although the two lived on the same estate — St Raphaels, in Stonebridge, N. London, they had never met before.

The court heard how the boy had been riding his bike in front of the block. After a while he went up to chat to Williams, who, after a few minutes, became angry and lifted the child up and threw him over the balcony edge.

Williams had had a number of previous convictions before — for rape, burglary, theft, indecent assault and assaulting police. According to one of the barristers involved in the case Williams was at liberty in the first instant only due to lack of foresight on the part of the authorities.

The family of the dead boy have since moved away from the estate.

Black Actors in British Films
See pages 14 and 15.